

line 32, delete "locally" and insert therein - -the local- -.

On page 12, line 35, delete "than" and insert therein - -then- -.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1-12.

Add the following new claims 13-32.

*Sub*  
*13*  
--13. (Newly Added) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, comprising:

*B*  
a generally planar base having a thickness substantially less than a length of the terminals; and

*14*  
a plurality of discrete openings through said base, each opening associated with a respective one of the terminals.

*15*  
14. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, wherein the press block is metal injection molded.

*16*  
15. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, wherein the press block is a composite of a polymer and a fine grain metal.

*17*  
16. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, further comprising walls extending from edges of said base and defining an open area therebetween in communication with said openings in said base.

*18*  
17. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, wherein said openings are tapered.

18. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, wherein a surface of said openings has a convex profile.

19. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 13, further comprising a second press block, said press blocks stackable end-to-end without a loss of contact position.

20. (Newly Added) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate,

comprising:

a front face receiving the terminals;

side walls extending from said front face;

an open area between said side walls and said front face; and

a plurality of openings in said front face in communication with said open area;

(wherein the terminals extend through said openings and reside within said open area during insertion.)

21. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 20, wherein the press block is metal injection molded.

22. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 20, wherein the press block is a composite of a polymer and a fine grain metal.

23. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 20, wherein said front face has a thickness substantially less than a length of the terminals

24. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 20, wherein said openings are tapered.

25. (Newly Added) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, comprising:

a body;

+ a plurality of fingers extending from said body and adapted to receive the terminals between adjacent fingers; and

a member extending between distal tips of a pair of adjacent fingers.

26. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 25, wherein said pair of adjacent fingers reside adjacent an edge of said body.

27. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 26, further comprising a second member extending between a pair of adjacent fingers adjacent an opposite edge of said body.

28. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 25, wherein the press block is manufactured by one of spark erosion and metal injection molding.

29. (Newly Added) A method of making a press block used to insert a plurality of terminals into a substrate, comprising the steps of:

forming a generally planar base having a thickness substantially less than a length of the terminals; and

forming a plurality of discrete openings through said base, each opening associated with a respective one of the terminals.

30. (Newly Added) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the forming steps comprise metal injection molding.

31. (Newly Added) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the metal injection molding step comprises:

providing a composite of a polymer and a fine grain metal;

injecting said composite into a mold; and

depleting said polymer from said composite.

32. (Newly Added) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the openings forming step includes the step of providing a convex profile. - -